

FUMCESL 10-26-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Would you rather have too much free time or too little free time? In other words, do you like to stay very busy or do you prefer having lots of time to do nothing? What kinds of things do you do in your "free time"?

Subject Verb Agreement is usually easy. If you have a singular subject you use "is", or for a plural subject, you use "are." EX: There is a fly in this room. There are flies in this room.

Here are some other rules to learn.

--Collective nouns like: team, city, state, company, government, country, use a singular verb. But collective nouns like team members or government officials use plural verb. EX: Our team is leading the league. The city is on the coast. Our team members are riding to the game on a bus. Government officials are elected for a certain period.

--Indefinite pronouns are singular and need singular verbs: anyone, nobody, each one, either one, someone, anything, anywhere, anybody, no one, somebody, etc. EX: Something is missing. No one is coming. Is either one here?

--The word "pair" requires a singular verb. EX: A pair of jeans is lying on the floor.

--Gerunds usually function as singular nouns and take singular verbs. EX: Swimming is my favorite sport.

--A phrase with "one of" requires a singular verb. EX: One of the rabbits is in the garden.

-- Using non-count nouns that end in S is difficult. EX: NEWS is a non- count noun. News is always singular. The news is really good. No news is good news.

--Another tricky noun is CUSTOMS. There are two meanings for this word. Customs is the agency in a country that inspects goods coming into the country. It always takes a singular verb. EX: Customs **is** so intimidating.

The second meaning for CUSTOMS is a tradition or common practice in a culture. EX: The customs in Japan **are** much different than the customs in the United States.

--School subjects (English, chemistry) are non-count nouns. You use a singular verb with them. That's easy if the subject doesn't end in S. EX: Chemistry is really hard for me. But it gets confusing when we have subjects that end in S like physics and mathematics. We see the S and want to use a plural verb, but that is wrong. EX: Physics is (not are) a difficult subject.

Put IS or ARE in the blank

1. There ___ over 600,000 kinds of insects in the world.
2. There ___ only one answer to this problem.
3. This ___ a bad time to plan a party.

4. These ___ dangerous times.
5. What percentage of the earth's surface ____ covered with water?
6. A number of students ___ absent today.
7. A lot of dresses ___ on sale.
8. A lot of students in college ___ international students.
9. Some of the fruit in this bowl ___ rotten.
10. A lot of my friends ____ taking a gap year.
11. The news ___ always interesting.
12. The United States ____ a big country.
13. The colors of the rainbow ____ beautiful.
14. Where ___ the pieces of this puzzle?
15. Mathematics ___ the only course offered.
16. Diabetes ___ a terrible disease.
17. Eight hours ____ enough sleep for most adults.
18. Four quarts of oil ____ required for the outboard motor.
19. The police _____ on the way.
20. Cattle____ grazing in that field.
21. The elderly ____ in need of help during the pandemic.
22. The young ___ more resilient.
23. ___ there any mistakes in my letter?
24. This soup ___ too salty.
25. These bananas ___ rotten.
26. We could walk home. ___ it far?
27. It ___ difficult to get up so early.
28. No one ____ talking to the police.
29. The remainder of the students _____ taking the test on Tuesday.
30. _____ anyone coming with me?

Today we will begin reading a short story I wrote for the ESL classes. Students take turns reading the paragraphs. Talk about the meaning of the words and phrases in bold text. After you read the paragraph, tell what is happening in your own words.

A Mystery, Part 1

It was midnight. I was looking for the guy I was supposed to meet on the docks. But it was **pitch black** out. I could hardly see my hand in front of my face. I heard a shout from my left and turned quickly. Suddenly someone grabbed me from behind. They held me by my shoulders and **hustled** me forward and onto a boat. They put a **hood** over my head and thrust me into a room below deck. I fell onto a hard floor and heard the door slam loudly. It was a heavy door, not one I could easily kick down.

I **jerked** the hood off and looked around, but found I was in total blackness. A room with no windows in the **bowels** of a large boat. I couldn't see a thing. Then slowly, my eyes became accustomed to the dark. There was a very **faint** light coming from underneath the door. I didn't dare move around because I couldn't see anything. I laid there for what seemed like hours and finally fell asleep. I woke without knowing what time it was.

Someone quickly opened the door and threw in a loaf of bread and a jug of water. That was my only **sustenance**. I thought I would go crazy at first, but over time I became **accustomed** to my **imprisonment**. I was **resigned** to my situation. Whoever captured me obviously cared that I stay alive or they wouldn't have given me food. I was so **disoriented** in the dark. I couldn't tell how long I had been down there. I tried shouting, but no one could hear me.

Eventually, I heard a diesel engine start up underneath me. I could feel the **vibration** from the engine, so I must be in a room just above the engine. I started to feel movement. We were **headed** somewhere. That was interesting. Whoever had grabbed me wanted me taken away from here. Why? After a while, the motor slowed, then stopped. I could hear the **anchor chain** going out. So we had arrived. What would happen next? Would this be where they throw me overboard? No, if they had wanted me dead they would have thrown me overboard while at sea. Everything was quiet for a while. In the silence, I dropped off to sleep again. But I was jerked alert by the sound of the door opening. Sunshine pierced the darkness. I was **temporarily blinded** by the bright light. I **stumbled forward**.

A couple of **masked thugs** grabbed me under my arms and helped me out. I was on a sailboat. We were anchored in a **deserted cove** perhaps one hundred yards from a **wooded**

shoreline. They **handcuffed** me to the **mast**. I was still **captive**, but it felt so good to be out of the dark, that I began to feel hopeful. I **questioned** my guards, but got **no response**. They were **obviously** just following instructions. But whose? And why did they want me held, but didn't want me hurt.

1. What was he doing on the docks?
2. Describe his capture.
3. What was he pushed onto?
4. What sustenance did his captors provide?
5. Why was he disoriented?
6. How did he know he was being moved to another place?
7. What time of day did he get taken from below deck?
8. Who helped him out?
9. Where were they anchored?
10. How did they keep him from escaping?
11. How did he feel?
12. What did the guards tell him?
13. Why did he feel like they wouldn't throw him overboard?
14. What is he puzzled about?
15. Would you be scared in his situation? What would you do?